August 25, 2005





INFORMATION UPDATE FOR WHOLESALE CUSTOMERS

http://www.seattle.gov/util/About_SPU/News/Newsletters/index.asp

Water Supply Outlook

SPU has started using water supply indicators to help customers understand Seattle's water supply situation.

Seattle Water Supply Indicators As of August 15, 2005	
Water Storage	
Reservoir Inflows	
Snowpack	N/A
Customer Use	
Overall	
Good Fair	Poor

Our water supply situation and outlook is good (see chart left). Over the last 7 days we received minor amounts of precipitation in our Cedar and Tolt watersheds. Water storage levels in our mountain reservoirs are good as we

move through the summer dry season.

Regulated streamflows in both the S.F. Tolt and Cedar rivers downstream of our reservoirs are being held slightly above guaranteed normal levels for this time of the year. Chester Morse Lake is at elevation 1552.9 feet, down approximately 1.2 feet from last week, and about 1.4 feet above its longterm average (based on the years 1989 to 2004) for this time of the year. The South Fork Tolt Reservoir is at elevation 1745.9 feet, down about 2.2 feet from last week, and 3.4 feet below its long-term average. Water consumption for the 7-day period last week averaged approximately 184 mgd. That is significantly less than the 223 mgd consumed during the same period last year, and less than the average of 195 mgd used during the same period over the years 1994-2000.

To help ensure sufficient water supply for fish and people, it is important to continue to use water wisely.

Please check **www.savingwater.org** for the most current water supply conditions.



Chlorine Residual & Coliform Data from July 2005

There were two positive coliform samples in purveyor areas during July 2005. All follow-up samples were good. Average chlorine residual concentrations in the purveyor distribution systems ranged from 0.2 to 1.0 mg/L, with an overall average of 0.7 mg/L. The target chlorine residual at the Tolt Treatment facility is 1.5 mg/L and the Cedar target residual is 1.4 mg/L.

Taste and Odor

The taste and odor panel is meeting every other week. Samples are rated on a scale from 1 to 9, with 1 representing the best and 9 representing the worst. The taste and odor flavor rating assessment (FRA) for the Cedar supply (Lake Youngs treated) samples in June were 1.6 and 1.1, and they were described as slightly chlorinous. The two Tolt supply results were 1.4 and 1.5 with a chlorinous taste. If you would like to receive a weekly update of the taste and odor panel results, please e-mail Moya Joubert at moya.joubert@seattle.gov.



Lead and Copper

Sample collection for the second round of lead and copper samples for 2005 has begun.

Purveyors are reminded to pick up bottles the week before they are scheduled to bring in samples.

SPU Contact: Wylie Harper, 206 684-7880 or Lynn Kirby, 206 684-0216.



Water System Plan

Water System Plan Update

Efforts to update the SPU comprehensive Water System Plan (WSP) are progressing. The demand forecast model is complete and the water supply planning model is nearing completion. The Planning and Engineering Committee has reviewed the demand forecast model. Water resources policies have been drafted and reviewed by the Operating Board.

This month SPU signed a consultant contract with Brown and Caldwell (BC) to perform numerous tasks for the plan. In addition to several tasks related to producing the plan and conducting some analysis and reports related to the SPU distribution system, the contract includes some tasks related more directly to wholesale service customers. BC will develop alternatives and analysis to support SPU in creating a redundancy policy that will help guide budget decisions for both the transmission and distribution systems. Utilizing leading experts in the field of water quality, BC will prepare a report on emerging water quality issues and their potential impact on SPU. BC will also lead a process to develop our 25-year capital facilities plan. A small task in their contract is to provide us with an update on desalination as a supply option. Another task is to research and report on reclaimed water opportunities.

In addition to work being done by BC, SPU staff continue to work on other elements of the WSP. Existing policies are being revised and new ones created. There will be some new service levels related to wholesale customer continuity of service and water quality. These new service levels will be brought to the appropriate technical forums for discussion when they are ready later this year or early next year. The WSP is still on track for a final draft to be complete by June 2006.



On the web at http://www.savingwater.org

WashWise Water Efficient Clothes Washer Rebate Program

The WashWise program offers rebates of \$25 to \$100 for the purchase and installation of qualified energy and water saving clothes washers. The more energy and water the washer saves, the higher the rebate. Rebate forms are individually numbered and are not available on the internet. Forms are available from specific retailers, or by calling (206) 684-SAVE.

To be eligible the machine must be installed in a single-family residence that purchases water from one of the Saving Water Partnership utilities.

Multi-Family Toilet Program

The Multi-Family Toilet program has been extended to December 31, 2005. The Western Pottery toilet will replace the Toto CST703, which is not available in the necessary quantities for this program. To date in 2005, 1,919 toilets have been replaced.

For more information on these programs please visit **http://www.savingwater.org/** or call Contact Billie Fisher at (206) 615-1282.





Happy Trails for the Saving Water Partnership

For the first time since the event began four years ago, Saving Water Partnership had a presence at the annual Trails Fest held at Rattlesnake Lake in the Cedar River Watershed.

An estimated 2,000 visitors gathered to learn about trails, and this year, water. In spite of cool wet weather, attendees were very interested in the display showing current water supply conditions and conservation information. Staff gave demonstrations on how slow toilet leaks occur and shower timers work. Over 130 Home Water Conservation Kits and 200 five-minute Shower Timers were distributed to adults. Children received copies of the popular Shared Waters activity book, Bert the Salmon bookmarks and zipper pulls. Because of the success of the outreach, plans are to make this an annual occurrence.



Northwest Natural Yard Days

In September, SWP will be contributing to the regional Northwest Natural Yard Days program. 45 retailers in Seattle, King County and Tacoma will participate in the Fall promotion. The key message is to promote greater use of compost and organic fertilizer in lawn and garden applications. Retailers will offer discounts on bagged compost, organic fertilizer and bagged bark mulch. And to promote the message that "Fall is the time for planting" as well as inspire gardeners, classes will be hosted at five nurseries: City People's, Furney's,

Molbak's, Sky Nursery and Swansons. Displays at the nurseries will showcase Choosing the Right Plants, The Plant List and Growing Healthy Soil along with products from the nursery (compost, fertilizer and plants). For more information about Northwest Natural Yard Days, visit www.yarddays.com.



News and Updates

West Nile Virus Update

As of early August, Washington remains one of only a few states

without a confirmed human or animal case of West Nile virus (WNV) this year.

With WNV still on the horizon this summer, Public Health is encouraging King County residents to report dead birds to its Environmental Health Division at (206)

205-4394. Crows and Jays are particularly important to report because they tend to die quickly from WNV. Public Health will use the dead bird reports to track the potential arrival of WNV in King County.

Since WNV is spread through infected mosquitoes, the best thing you can do to protect yourself is to eliminate mosquito breeding grounds from your home and yard and take personal protection when mosquitoes are out.

For more information visit www.metrokc.gov/health/westnile/ or call Public Health - Seattle & King County at (206) 205-3883.

Security Improvements Begin

The security of people, corporate assets, equipment, the environment and the services we provide are a top priority at Seattle Public Utilities (SPU). We are strengthening our security program to reduce our risk and to protect the city's water,



drainage and solid waste facilities, and our ability to provide essential services to the citizens of Seattle.

You may see new signs, gates and cameras at SPU-occupied facilities, as well as ongoing patrols by security personnel. Visitors to SPU-occupied facilities will also experience new security procedures while on site. These improvements provide a higher degree of security measures at facilities and reservoirs, while helping to protect water quality.

SPU appreciates the watchful eyes of our customers. If you do see any suspicious behavior near a reservoir or other SPU facility, please call 911.



New security gates will be installed at SPU-occupied facilities.



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